

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with B. Aaron Schulman on June 18, 2009.

Claims 19-26, 28 and 41 are allowed.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel non-elected claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-18, 27, and 29-40.

Reasons for Allowance:

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach 'an isolated antibody which is capable of binding to an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 33-592 of SEQ ID NO: 13'. The instant specification teaches that amino acids 33-592 of SEQ ID NO: 13 represent the A domain of the polypeptide which they have identified as an 'extracellular matrix protein'. The specification teaches that this A domain was cloned, expressed and purified. See example 3 on pages 47-48. Antibodies were generated against this A domain. See page 54 which bolds and underscores amino acids 33-592; the typographical error in the header, e.g., amino acid residues 33-590, was fixed in an amendment submitted 2/16/07. Cited prior art references, Doucette-Stamm et al and Choi et al, teach theoretical, computer-generated polypeptide sequences which were thought via algorithmic methods and predictive models to reflect actual polypeptides, and do not disclose any specific proteins, much less any specific amino acid regions within SEQ ID NO: 13, such as the A domain, which may be expressed from the sequences. There is no teaching of the region known as the A domain, much less the

generation of antibodies that are capable of recognizing this specific region in the Doucette-Stamm et al and Choi et al references. The sequences which match SEQ ID NO: 13 in the prior art references were theoretical, e.g., not expressed, and there is no mention of what type of proteins or polypeptides they encode, nor is there any disclosure that the sequence may have been an extracellular matrix protein, much less any antibodies actually generated against the A domain, e.g., amino acids 33-592 of SEQ ID NO: 13.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1645. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Remsen. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Group 1645 Fax number is 571-273-8300 which is able to receive transmissions 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer E. Graser whose telephone number is (571) 272-0858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM-6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Mondesi, can be reached on (571) 272-0956.

Art Unit: 1645

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0500.

/Jennifer E. Graser/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645

6/18/09